

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 6/18/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell 805-781-1831	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve two (2) renewal service contracts (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with 1) Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO) in the amount of \$62,575, and 2) Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$62,575 in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION 1. It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$62,575. 2. It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$62,575.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) PSSF Grant Funds	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT CAPSLO: \$ 62,575 The LINK: <u>\$ 62,575</u> \$125,150	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT CAPSLO: \$ 62,575 The LINK: <u>\$ 62,575</u> \$125,150	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) CAPSLO: 19001261 The LINK: 19001262		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>Board Approved 6/19/12</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 781-1831

DATE: 6/18/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve two (2) renewal service contracts (Clerk's File) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates with 1) Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO) in the amount of \$62,575, and 2) Central Coast LINK (The LINK) in the amount of \$62,575 in Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

RECOMMENDATION

1. It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$62,575.
2. It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal service contract with Central Coast LINK (The LINK) for Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Family Advocates for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$62,575.

DISCUSSION

In a collaborative effort among the Departments of Social Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health and Probation, the SAFE System of Care (SOC) was established in 1992 as an initiative of the Children's Services Network (CSN). The mission of the SAFE SOC is working together in partnership with children and families to enhance independence, safety, and health at home, in school and in the community. Currently the SAFE SOC is operating in three (3) school districts: Paso Robles Joint Unified School District (PRJUSD), Atascadero Unified School District (AUSD) and Lucia Mar Unified School District (LMUSD). Each operation is unique, but all provide services consistent with the mission and values of SAFE. The CAPSLO contract will provide services in the Southern Region of San Luis Obispo County and The LINK contract will provide services in the Northern Region of San Luis Obispo County.

The SAFE SOC builds upon the concept of a three-tiered multi-agency integrated service delivery model that has been developed in the majority of counties throughout California. Services focus on incorporating community prevention activities, intervention and referral services, and intensive treatment services. The SAFE Community-Based Team (CBT) and the

Intensive Services Team (IST) interact with local community-based organizations and services to support local prevention efforts at the grassroots level. The CBT is made up of *prevention* and *intervention* service providers such as County social services CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and CalFresh (i.e., food assistance) workers, employment specialists, family counselors, parent educators and family advocates. If a child or family needs to be linked to a community resource, transportation, translation, assessment, or help with life management skills a referral is made to the CBT. The team also provides extensive *Information and Referral* services, which often divert a family from any further involvement with “the system” of human services agencies.

The Intensive Services Team (IST) is made up of social workers, Drug & Alcohol and Mental Health therapists, Probation officers and other treatment-level practitioners. If a child or family has immediate and/or severe problems or is involved with two or more service agencies a referral is made to the IST. The IST provides services to support the family and avoid out of home placement for children and youth (whether foster care, group home placement, hospitalization for mental illness or incarceration at the Juvenile Services Center).

The Management Support Team (MST), consisting of mid-level managers from the participating agencies, focus on facilitating the functioning of SAFE SOC staff teams by meeting monthly. The Committee developed the concept of a Site Coordinator which is utilized to assist in operation of the SAFE SOC and the daily supervision of on-site staff. The Southern Region has a Systems Coordinator while the Northern Region has a Center for Assessment and Referrals in Education Services (CARES) Coordinator. Both positions function similarly and work with all of the school districts, agencies and community-based organizations in the region to provide SAFE SOC education and outreach and to insure the smooth operation of SAFE SOC referrals and services.

Benefits to families served by the SAFE SOC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Services based in their community and linked to the schools make access much easier and “user friendly” for families, who can receive multiple services and levels of service in one location.
- Services that are multi-disciplinary and case managed mean that family service plans are consolidated and simplified. Family members don’t have to cover the same ground with different providers.
- There is less travel for both families and agency staff, which is a direct benefit to the individuals involved, the community and the environment through reductions in traffic, fuel emissions and consumption, and increases in saved time and efficiency.
- Any agency or group that serves families and youth is aware of the program and makes referrals to the local SAFE SOC site in their area.

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO)

CAPSLO, a private nonprofit, began providing services in San Luis Obispo County in 1965

[then known as the Economic Opportunity Commission of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (EOC)] and offers many services for low-income individuals and families. Services include childcare, homeless case management, shelter and food, home energy services, adult day care for the elderly or disabled, emergency intervention services, and many other services focused on eliminating the causes of poverty. Services provided by the Family Advocates at the SAFE SOC location(s) improve the quality of life for young parents and families and support the CAPSLO mission and vision of helping families achieve self-sufficiency through community-based programs.

CAPSLO has been a primary partner in the South County SAFE SOC since 1992 and continues to collaborate with partners like LMUSD and County Departments including Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health and Probation. In addition, CAPSLO partners with the San Luis Obispo Child Development Center (SLOCDC), a local non-profit community program that provides therapeutic interventions for children and families (www.slocdc.org). For more information about CAPSLO services you can visit their website at www.capslo.org.

Central Coast LINK (The LINK)

The LINK is a non-profit organization that has been providing services in the North County since 1998 and covers a geographic area that includes Shandon, Parkfield, Creston, Santa Margarita, San Miguel as well as Atascadero and Paso Robles. Currently The LINK is a full service Family Resource Center and the primary provider of SAFE SOC Family Advocate services in the North County. They collaborate with the County Department of Social Services (DSS), CAPSLO, AUD, PRJUSD, North County Connection, Kinship Center, Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and other public and private agencies serving at-risk children and youth. Services provided focus on supporting youth and families in need of family support and resources. The LINK's Family Advocacy Program has become the foundation for the Organization's success.

Through family advocates, The LINK has direct contact with families and works hard to build trust and identify needs. When families are in need or in crisis, family advocates are there to support their needs in school, throughout the social services network, and across social, cultural and economic boundaries. Annually, Family Advocates make contact with hundreds of families and provide services that include in-home support, case management, and resources to help families become strong and stable. Schools also rely on Family Advocates to identify concerns and provide early intervention support to keep children healthy, safe, and in school. Since 2009, Family Advocates in the North County have participated in middle school Student Assistance Teams through the Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention program. The LINK recognizes that community is family, and a thriving community cannot develop without thriving families contributing to its success. For more information about The LINK and its services you may visit their website at www.slolink.org.

A major source of funding for SAFE SOC services comes from the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) which CSN oversees. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was conducted in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-2013 and OCAP Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funding was approved for 3-years beginning in FY 2011-2012 for both CAPSLO and The LINK. The RFP required all applicants to align FY 2012-2013 services with the County System Improvement Plan (SIP) process which identified three (3) family-based strategies that the

DSS and County Probation will work to improve: 1) no recurrence of maltreatment, 2) placement stability, and 3) reunification within 12 months for children removed from a home.

To align with the County SIP strategies and the OCAP PSSF goals of providing services that promote healthy marriages and strengthen parenting skills to reduce child abuse and neglect new performance outcomes were established. The performance outcomes beginning FY 2012-2013 fall under four components: 1) Family Preservation, 2) Family Support Services, 3) Adoption Promotion and Support Services, and 4) Time-Limited Family Reunification Services. Family Preservation refers to services that help families at risk or in crisis by providing assistance that aids in reunification, adoption, or legal guardianship. Specifically services may be designed to improve parenting skills, assist with family budgeting, coping with stress, and understanding age appropriate health and nutritional needs of children. Family Support Services refers to the use of community-based services to promote the safety and well-being of families and children.

The third component, Adoption Promotion and Support Services, is intended to provide services and activities designed to ensure permanency for children through family reunification, adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement. Activities may include pre- and post-adoption services, or activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families. The final component is the Time-Limited Family Reunification Services which include services for a child that is removed from their home and placed in a foster family home or institution and a reunification plan is in place to return the child to his/her family of origin within a 15-month period. Services and activities may include counseling, treatment for substance abuse, help addressing domestic violence, therapeutic services and/or transportation for plan activities.

Approval of these renewal contracts will allow CAPSLO and The LINK to continue to employ Family Advocates that work directly with referred children and families in the Southern and Northern Regions of the County. Referrals come from teachers, school nurses, principals, counselors, and school staff who have direct contact with children and families. Families can also self refer. The Family Advocates work with several thousand families each year (See the Results section of this letter.) and provide services that help strengthen each family based on their unique needs. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in our community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

These contracts were developed in partnership with CSN, OCAP, CAPSLO and The LINK. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contracts as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

These contracts are 100% funded with Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) federal dollars. PSSF funding is allocated to the county annually by the OCAP based on a 3-year plan. CAPSLO and The LINK were selected through the RFP process to receive funding for a three (3) year period starting in FY 2011-2012.

Based on funds available through the RFP, in FY 2013-2014 the total contract amount for CAPLSO and The LINK is \$62,575 for each contract. This is a slightly lower amount than the prior year due to a decrease in available grant funds through OCAP. This decrease will have an impact on the number of hours a Family Advocate will be available using PSSF funding, however both CAPSLO and The LINK leverage various sources to maximize Family Advocate hours and services. The contract is included in the Department of Social Services budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and will require no additional General Fund contribution.

Agency	Adopted FY 11-12	Adopted FY 12-13	Budgeted FY 13-14	Notes	Sharing Ratios		
					Fed	St	Co
Community Action Partnership of SLO County (CAPSLO)	\$43,869	\$65,340	\$62,575	SAFE Family Advocates (PSSF funds)	100%		
Central Coast LINK (The LINK)	\$48,869	\$65,340	\$62,575	SAFE Family Advocates (PSSF funds)	100%		

RESULTS

The SAFE contracts (CAPSLO and The Link) are funded with Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) funds. Based on the 2011 RFP performance outcomes were aligned with the County System Improvement Plan (SIP) outcomes.

SAFE is a community-based, school-linked program designed to bring services to children and families on three (3) levels: prevention, community-based and intensive. The goal is to focus on family strengths and work with families to keep children safe, healthy, at home, in school, and out of trouble.

CAPSLO - Lucia Mar Unified School District Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Advocacy Services

Fiscal Year 12-13

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates exceeded their performance outcome to serve thirty (30) families with one-on-one education and support services on budgeting, child development, positive parenting, stress reduction, and child health, nutrition, and well-being; with eighty-five percent (85%) of families showing improved functioning as demonstrated by gains on their Family Development matrix (FDM) assessments [Family Support and Family Preservation activities]. As of March 31, 2013, forty six (46) families received one-on-one education and support services, with ninety-two percent (92%) showing improved functioning as demonstrated by the gains on the FDM. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2013, which is the end of the contract.

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates met their performance outcome to coordinate a minimum of 6-10 week parenting classes to promote healthy marriages, strengthen parent-child relationships, increase knowledge of child development, and increase awareness of attachment issues; with eighty-five percent (85%) of families reporting less stress in the home and increased knowledge of parenting and relationship skills, and seventy-five percent (75%)

will successfully avoid separation from their children. At least one series will be specific to foster and adoptive parents [Family Support activity]. *As of March 31, 2013, a total of six (6) parenting classes were coordinated with one specific to foster/adoptive parents. A total of seventy (70) parents participated. One hundred percent (100%) of families reported less stress in the home and avoided separation from their children.*

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates met their performance outcome to collaborate with at least three (3) foster family agencies to identify and provide services to adoptive and foster families who would benefit from parenting classes [Family Preservation activity]. *As of March 31, 2013, CAPSLO collaborated with the following agencies: SLO Department of Social Services, Family Care Network, Inc (FCNI) and Kinship Center.*

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates exceeded their performance outcome to conduct a minimum of twelve (12) outreach and training presentations to adoption social workers, youth probation officers, community-based providers, educators, and others on supportive and SAFE services available to foster care and adoptive families and their children [Adoption Promotion and Time-Limited Reunification activities]. *As of March 31, 2013, a total of seventeen (17) outreach and training presentation were conducted to the following agencies: Shell Beach Elementary School, Grover Beach Elementary School, Fairgrove Elementary School, Harloe Elementary School, Dana Elementary School, Big Brother/Big Sisters of SLO County, SLO County Victim Witness Program, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Families in Transition (Lucia Mar Unified School District), Central Coast Link [(The LINK) 3], Oceanview Elementary School, Paso Robles Family Resource Center, Probation Placement Unit, San Luis Obispo County Office of Education, and Kinship Center.*

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates provided screening, referrals, and assistance with scheduling twenty-one (21) individuals/families for therapy as of March 31, 2013. *This number is slightly lower the performance outcome to screen, refer, and assist with scheduling for at least twenty-five (25) individuals/families for therapy at community mental health services for adopted and foster care individuals or families [Adoption Promotion and Time-Limited Reunification activities]. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2013, which is the end of the contract.*

Fiscal Year 13-14

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates will provide thirty (30) families with one-on-one education and support services on budgeting, child development, positive parenting, stress reduction, and child health, nutrition, and well-being; eighty-five percent (85%) of families will show improved functioning as demonstrated by gains on their Family Development matrix (FDM) assessments. [Family Support and Family Preservation activities]

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates will coordinate a minimum of 6-10 week parenting classes to promote healthy marriages, strengthen parent-child relationships, increase knowledge of child development, and increase awareness of attachment issues; 85% of families will report less stress in the home and an increased knowledge of parenting and relationship skills, and seventy-five percent (75%) will successfully avoid separation from their children. At least one series will be specific to foster and adoptive parents. [Family Support activity]

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates will collaborate with at least three (3) foster family agencies to identify and provide services to adoptive and foster families who would benefit from parenting classes. [Family Preservation activity]

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates will conduct a minimum of twelve (12) outreach and training presentations to adoption social workers, youth probation officers, community-based providers, educators, and others on supportive and SAFE services available to foster care and adoptive families and their children. [Adoption Promotion and Time-Limited Reunification activities]

CAPSLO SAFE Family Advocates will screen, refer, and assist with scheduling for at least twenty-five (25) individuals/families for therapy at community mental health services for adopted and foster care individuals or families. [Adoption Promotion and Time-Limited Reunification activities]

The Central Coast LINK (The LINK) - Services Affirming Family Empowerment (SAFE) Advocacy Services

Fiscal Year 12-13

The LINK provided thirty-eight (38) families with case management support and coordination of services who were at either at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect as of March 31, 2013. Of these thirty-eight (38) families eighty seven percent (87%) demonstrated improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments. *The number of families served is slightly lower than the performance outcome to provide fifty (50) families with case management support and coordination of services who are either at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect. From the fifty (50) families served, eighty seven percent (87%; versus target of 75%) demonstrated improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2013, which is the end of the contract.*

The LINK provided one-on-one support and case management to twelve (12) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically; seventy five percent (75%) of families served and cased managed by FDM showed improvement as identified in assessments as of March 31, 2013. *The number of families served is slightly lower than the performance outcome to provide one-on-one support and case management to fifteen (15) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically, with seventy five percent (75%) of families served and cased managed by FDM showed improvement as identified in assessments. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2013, which is the end of the contract.*

The LINK exceed the performance outcome to provide ten (10) families (individual parents or youth) with peer support and case management services to youth and families who are at-risk or have been separated, and who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse (contract with North County Connection). At least seventy-five percent (75%) of families receiving Drug and Alcohol services were to show improvement in FDM assessments. *As of March 31, 2013, a total of*

twelve (12) families received peer support and case management services, with eighty percent (80%) showing improvement in FDM assessments. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by June 30, 2013, which is the end of the contract.

The LINK exceeded the performance outcome to coordinate a minimum of 6, 7-10 week courses in parenting education and parent skills workshops. *As of March 31, 2013, a total of ten (10) parenting education and parent skills workshops were offered, with eighty-five percent (85%) increasing their parenting skills.*

Fiscal Year 13-14

The LINK will provide fifty (50) families with case management, support and coordination of services who are either at-risk of being taken from the home, in a time-limited reunification situation, or at-risk of child abuse and neglect. From the 50 families served, 75% will demonstrate improvement in risk areas identified in the Family Development Matrix (FDM) Assessments.

The LINK will provide one-on-one support and case management to fifteen (15) families needing time-limited reunification services and post-adoption support services specifically; 75% of families served and cased managed by FDM will show improvement as identified in assessments.

The LINK will provide ten (10) families (individual parents or youth) with peer support and case management services to youth and families who are at-risk or have been separated, and who are affected by drug and alcohol abuse (contract with North County Connection). At least 75% of families receiving Drug and Alcohol services will show improvement in FDM assessments.

The LINK will coordinate a minimum of 6, 7-10 week courses in parenting education and parent skills workshops.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CAPSLO Clerk's File
2. The LINK Clerk's File